

Work on dementia care unit progressing well

SURGO

NEWS



Construction well advanced on Wallsend site

As we head towards the close of 2015 we reflect on a successful year that has seen staff numbers increase as we continue to secure new contracts, across a diverse sector base and on both new build schemes and major refurbishment projects.

Presently our site teams are spread geographically from Embleton in north Northumberland down to Northallerton in North Yorkshire and many locations in between, including Newcastle, Gateshead and County Durham.

In North Tyneside, work is progressing well on the £4.6 million development of a 52-bedroom facility, specifically designed to deliver the highest level of care available to residents who are suffering from dementia. This contract is being carried out for specialist care provider Eothen Homes, which has two further homes in the

region and one in Surrey. Visitors to the site can now see quite clearly how the building will look when it completes next Spring.

In Northumberland, work is drawing to a close on the design and construction of 16 new homes which are being developed as part of Northumberland County Council's affordable homes programme, and will be managed by the council's arms length housing management company, Homes for Northumberland (HFN).

Later in this issue you will see updates on a number of refurbishment projects and news of the latest projects to complete, namely two GP surgeries and a social mixing space in the newly named Ridley Atrium at Newcastle University's Medical School, which can trace its roots back to 1834.

Stop Press!

As we went to press we received news of three new contract wins. In North Tyneside we have been awarded an enabling contract and are currently the preferred main contractor for the development of nine new dwellings valued at £1.8 million.

Social housing provider ISOS, has appointed us on a £3.4 million project to construct 33 homes across four sites.

Furthermore, we have secured a £1.8 million contract from RIBA Enterprises to refurbish its north east office, situated in The Old Post Office, opposite St Nicholas' Cathedral, Newcastle.



Transforming HMS Calliope

Contemporary riverside facade

HMS Calliope (Calliope) is the principal Training Centre for the North and North East of England, and serves as the home base for some 110 reservists. It is also home to The Armed Forces Careers Service for all three services (RN, RAF & Army).

Situated on the banks of the River Tyne, Calliope's transformation is plain for all to see. The river-facing facade has been completely transformed and brought up to date with a contemporary rainscreen cladding. Work has now completed on the building's refurbishment, which has seen the team overcome the challenges associated with 1950s

construction, resulting in the remodelling and revitalising of the majority of the facility. As well as the external work, this has included, amongst other things, building a new boat store, fitting a new roof and installing a climbing rope tower.

In Gosforth, a further refurbishment contract is being delivered on behalf of retirement home specialists, McCathy and Stone, on a former school site at Kenton Lodge on a building which dates back to 1869. On this scheme we will be remodelling all three floors of the original building creating apartments with wet rooms as well as communal kitchen and dining facilities along with residents' lounges. Once complete, the scheme will deliver an assisted living facility which will provide 53 one and two-bedroom, high quality retirement homes exclusively for the over 70s. Work on the building is due for completion in February 2016.



The Ridley Atrium's social space

Creating a social mixing space

Often when we are appointed to work on higher education contracts an element of the design calls for a social mixing space to be created for students.

The exact opposite has been the case on a £4.5 million project we have recently completed for Newcastle University, when a social space for staff and lecturers was required instead. In November, the finishing touches were put to the remodelled and repurposed part of the Medical School to create the Ridley Atrium, named after the 4th Viscount Ridley.

The new atrium has provided the university with an airy 70-seat social space incorporating comfortable sofas and high level tables and chairs with a catering counter where university colleagues can meet up and network, or simply relax.

Staff loyalty and team work bears fruit in 2015



In each edition of Surgo News it is common for us to be thanking staff for their long service. Only a year ago it was my turn to celebrate three decades with the company.

Staff loyalty is not however, always easy to come by and I believe we are very fortunate at Surgo in the calibre of our team. We have been able to recruit and retain some of the best people in the regional construction sector over the years.

The feedback we get from clients is very positive. We have earned a solid reputation for our hard work, skill and experience. So often we receive letters of thanks commenting on our 'can do

attitude' and our friendly and flexible site staff who 'go the extra mile' – it is all very gratifying to hear.

I firmly believe that a reliable, friendly and experienced team is one which delivers projects on time, within budget and with a positive attitude – all are equally important aspects of leaving a favourable, lasting impression with clients.

This level of consistency has really paid off for the company in 2015 and it gives me great pleasure to report that after a very challenging business environment for the last eight years, it has been a really successful year for Surgo – one which has seen our turnover restored to somewhere near its pre-recession levels, at around £35 million. Also, another milestone has been reached this year as our cumulative turnover since the buy-out from the Bowey Group has passed £500 million!

I am delighted to be able to end my letter to you on such a positive note this time round. Let us hope that the year ahead is equally buoyant for all our staff, clients, consultants and supply chain as the regional economy picks up its pace.

Thanks to you all and a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Kind regards,

Ian Walker
Chairman



Not there Yeti!

Site managers see some strange things out on site but nothing stranger than a Yeti! Yes, a Yeti!

Graeme Watson and his team are currently working on construction of a new car showroom for Pulman Skoda, on the Belmont Industrial Estate, Durham and just when he needed an extra pair of hands the car maker's mascot, the Skoda Yeti, dropped in for a site visit to check on progress.

The new showroom is unusual in so much as it has been designed not only to create space for cars but will also incorporate a yoga studio on the first floor.



Two new surgeries

The healthcare sector has kept us busy of late and we are delighted to announce that we have recently completed two new GP surgeries in Durham.

The first to complete was the Wheatley Hill Surgery, which was handed over in June, becoming fully operational shortly afterwards.

However, the final part of the contract called for us to demolish the old surgery and create new parking facilities, which we have recently completed.

Working on behalf of Dr Martin Orlandi and the Ferryhill and Chilton Medical Practice, the new Chilton Health Centre is almost complete. Once completed the centre will include ground floor consulting rooms, counselling rooms and administration and meeting rooms with a shared reception facility. It will also incorporate a dental practice, NHS facilities and a medical retail unit.

Both schemes were designed by architects Howarth Litchfield.



All for a good cause

We always reserve the back page for news, information and updates on our greatest asset, our staff. As can be imagined with the number of employees we have there is always something to report and it is no less true of this issue, so here goes.



(l to r) Ben Johnson, Jamie Graham, Steve Harper and James Walker

Always happy to support a good cause, some staff pitted their wits against more than 100 other quiz goers in June, when Jamie Graham and Jeff Alexander represented Surgo at the first ever Lady Taverner's pub quiz, which took place at As You Like It, Jesmond.

In September, it was the turn of James Walker and Jamie Graham to represent the company and show off their prowess on the golf course, when they took part in the annual Lords Taverner's golf tournament at Close House Golf Club. On this occasion James and Jamie played alongside NUFC's former goal keeper Steve Harper and Ben Johnson (Groundwork Services). All gave a sterling performance.

Finally, during December staff from Surgo, Faithful +Gould, Atkins and Clothier Lacey & Co, showed true Christmas spirit donating over 250 items of food, as well as toys and selection boxes. All donations went to Children North East's Giving Tree Appeal 2015. Thank you!



(l to r) Len, Jeanette and Martin

We said hello and welcome to...

Over the past few months we have added some new and some familiar faces to the team. Firstly, in July, senior site manager Len Ronayne arrived, swiftly followed by senior estimator Martin Blight. Some may remember Martin from his earlier time with us. In August, following some time on a temporary contract, Jeanette Shipley joined the finance team on a permanent basis, taking up the role of general finance assistant. Welcome to all three.

We said goodbye to...

Unfortunately, just as the last issue of the newsletter had gone to print we heard the sad news that Jimmy Ruffell had passed away after losing his battle with cancer. Jimmy, a master of many skills, had served the company for 39 years and would have celebrated four decades with us this November. Our deepest sympathies go to his family and friends.



The new Mr and Mrs Laidler

We said congratulations to...

Congratulations and good luck for the future go to both finance manager Steven Coombes and site manager, Andy Laidler who tied the knot in July and August respectively.

